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RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING PRIORITY 7736
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY 6009
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY 0208
RUEHCHI/AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI PRIORITY 7344
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RHHMUNA/CDR USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY
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C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 003013

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STATE FOR EAP/MLS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 11/27/2019
TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [TH](#) [BM](#)
SUBJECT: THAILAND: PRESSING FOR DIALOGUE IN BURMA

REF: A. STATE 121789
[1](#)B. BANGKOK 2851

Classified By: DCM James F. Entwistle, reason 1.4 (b,d)

[1](#)1. (C) EAP DAS Marciel briefed Thai FM Kasit and the Bangkok-based Burma watcher crowd of host government officials, diplomats, journalists, and activists November 5 immediately after the November 3-4 visit of EAP A/S Campbell and Marciel to Burma; his messages included the need for Thailand and ASEAN in general to continue to press for genuine dialogue in Burma (ref B). Subsequent to the November 15 U.S.-ASEAN Leaders' Meeting in Singapore, we met with MFA Director for Burma, Laos, and Cambodia Pitchayaphant Charnbhumidol November 18 to review results of both the Campbell/Marciel trip and the U.S.-ASEAN meeting, reinforce U.S. policy priorities vis-a-vis Burma, and reiterate the points raised in Ref A.

[1](#)2. (C) Pitchayaphant underscored Thai support for a dialogue with the Burmese democratic opposition and ethnic groups - the latter a particular long-time concern of Thailand due to the large-scale refugee presence in Thailand near its border with Burma for nearly 20 years, since 1990. As a sign of Thai support for dialogue, Pitchayaphant noted that, in PM Abhisit's recent meeting with Burmese PM Thein Sein on the margins of the October 23-25 ASEAN summit, Abhisit had reiterated his desire to see Aung San Suu Kyi (ASSK) in his long-delayed visit to Burma. To our knowledge, Abhisit's request to meet ASSK may be a first from an ASEAN head of government. Pitchayaphant gave no indication when such a trip, initially planned for June, might transpire, lamenting: "the Burmese may have facilitated meetings for U.S. officials with ASSK on your terms and on relatively short notice, but they are much less accommodating to us."
JOHN